

## **Counterfeit Money Alert**

The U. S. Secret Service, Charlotte field office, is currently conducting an on-going investigation into the passing of counterfeit currency in the Charlotte, and surrounding area. These counterfeit notes are genuine \$5 federal reserve notes that have been "bleached" (Genuine Ink removed and re-printed) and reproduced and passed as genuine \$100 Federal reserve Notes. The suspects have targeted many different businesses throughout the Charlotte area.

The most recognized serial number is HB53175905K.

All persons and businesses should be aware of the following factors regarding this on-going scheme:

1. Small monetary purchases with large denomination bills.
2. The counterfeit detection pen is useless in this type of offense due to genuine paper being used.
3. Clerks and LEO should verify the watermark and security thread of the notes in question.
4. LEO's should fully identify each individual and attempt to gain consent searches of person and vehicle involved.
5. Suspects may ask for large quantities of "older" % notes in exchange for large bills.
6. Please mark and retain any surveillance video of the incident.
7. Please do not handle the suspected notes as much as possible and place in an envelope for retention.

Businesses should contact 911 for immediate response to suspected passes. If you have any information relative to the above, please contact the Charlotte Field Office of the US. Secret Service at 704-442-8370.